



WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

31st Annual CVF/FCV Convention

Lionel Conrod

It was a pleasure to chair the planning committee for the 2018 Volkssport convention. Our team of volunteers met or exceeded our expectations in every way. The convention was a success both in the eyes of the participants and in the financial books that finished in the black.

A great big thank you goes to our sponsors; Atlantica Hotel, Halifax Regional Municipality, Philip Longmire - Atlantic Region Director, the Dartmouth Volksmarch Club and Cole Harbour Parks and Trails Association.

The weather for the event was cool and wet at times; I wish we could have had some of that cool weather last week when the humidex soared to the high 30s! Our committee had control over most things but not the weather.

Early on Friday morning, Volkssporters were anxious to register for the three optional walks starting from the hotel. Sue Banks planned all the routes walked during the convention and also hosted the registration table for the three walks. At noon on Friday, Sharon Russell set up the display of wonderful items for the silent auction; she was happy to advise on Sunday morning that all items were purchased by those attending the event.

On Friday evening, we held the Meet and Mingle and we were entertained by the Country Trio. This was a lively band playing old favorites and getting the people's toes tapping. Cliff Broaders gave a lesson on Newfoundland step dancing! The hotel buffet menu, entitled, the Maritime Kitchen Party, included ale braised local mussels, mini donairs, crispy fish & chips and a bottomless pot of delicious Seafood Chowder, nobody left hungry. During intermission, the Dartmouth club members served 35th Anniversary Cake to all those present. Our club president, John O'Keefe, did a wonderful job as MC on both Friday and Saturday evening events and even shared a bit of humor each time.

I was proud that our events started on time throughout the weekend. Lily Conrod, and her team of volunteers, registered all the day's President's and Convention walkers in record time. On Saturday morning, at 9:00 am, President Beverley Catrall gave the signal for the start of the President's Walk. This was accompanied by our favorite piper, Heather MacLeod. Two hundred plus people walked across the MacDonald Bridge to Dartmouth, toured some of the scenic or historic areas and travelled back to Halifax via the Harbour Ferry.

The Saturday evening banquet, again started on time, the head table guests were piped in by Heather and everyone enjoyed their three-course meal. Dinner was followed by some volunteer recognition awards and an hour of superb musical entertainment by classically trained tenor, Leander Mendoza.

On Sunday morning, the walkers started on time and visited two of the most important historic sites in the city. First, the Halifax Explosion Memorial Park and Bells recognizing the devastating event back in 1917 when an ammunition ship collided with another ship resulting in flattening the North End of the city and killing thousands, this was the largest man-made explosion in the world up until the atomic boom hit Hiroshima, Japan in 1945. The other historic site was the Titanic Gravesites, the final resting place for over 100 of the casualties.

I was not on the post-convention bus tour; however, I know it was also a well-thought-out tour that included many of the attractions in our beautiful province. Our thanks to Lynda and Rick Kanne who organized and led this memorable event.

Sandy Hickey arranged for the design and production of the beautiful lapel pins and the t-shirts, we hope everyone liked these souvenir products from the convention. Thank you, Sandy.

To add a little interest to the Saturday morning President's Walk we arranged to have two white-tailed deer frolicking on the Halifax Common; and Sunday afternoon, on the Salt Marsh Trail, two bald eagles fought over a fish. The Americans loved to see their national emblem in action.

I wish to thank all the volunteers on the convention planning committee; you came through wonderfully well and I trust you enjoyed everything. There were 260 people that registered for the convention.

Some of the comments, following the event, are as follows: *I just wanted to let you know how much John and I enjoyed the convention. Everything seemed to flow smoothly. The walks were interesting and varied. Please let your team know how much John and I enjoyed it. Sue Osborn; Thank you for all the hard work you and the committee members did to make the convention a success. I enjoyed it. A wonderful way to celebrate DVC's 35th anniversary. Heather MacLeod; Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves! I personally think the Meet and Mingle and Banquet were one of*